

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 10-18 are pending in the application, with claim 10 being the independent claim. Claims 1-9 and 19-55 were previously canceled. Claims 10-16 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner has rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0091056 to Surace *et al.* ("Surace"). Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully traverse.

Independent claim 10, as presently amended, recites:

A method of providing a voice user interface for a user comprising:

enabling the user to specify character traits for a virtual host;
storing the character traits in a user profile having preference information for the user; and
generating a virtual host with a consistent personality in accordance with the character traits.

Surace does not teach or suggest each of the foregoing features of independent claim 10. For example, Surace does not teach or suggest "enabling the user to specify

character traits for a virtual host; storing the character traits in a user profile having preference information for the user; and generating a virtual host with a consistent personality in accordance with the character traits" as recited in claim 10.

As described in the specification of the present application, "a user is able to indicate in his or her profile specific character traits such a tone 321, sex 322, accent 323, formality 324, speed 325, character 326, and background 327 to develop a personality for the VUI host." (Specification, paragraph [0195]). Surace, on the other hand, describes developing a personality for a voice user interface as follows:

In particular, those skilled in the art of, for example, social psychology review the application requirements, and *they then determine which personality types best serve the delivery of a voice user interface* for the functions or services included in the application requirements. A personality or multiple personalities are selected, and a complete description is created of a stereotypical person displaying the selected personality of personalities, such as age, gender, education, employment history, and current employment position. Scenarios are developed for verbal interaction between the stereotypical person and typical users. (Surace at paragraph [0043], emphasis added).

In one embodiment, application 902 allows the subscriber to select a virtual assistant and, thus, a voice user interface with a particular personality that uses a particular prompt suite. (Surace at paragraph [0102]).

In one embodiment, the subscriber selects from several different personalities when selecting a virtual assistant. For example, the subscriber can interview virtual assistants with different personalities in order to choose the voice user interface with a personality that is best

suited for the subscriber's needs, business, or the subscriber's own personality. (Surace at paragraph [0113]).

Thus, as described by Surace, persons of skill in the art (e.g., social psychologists), as opposed to the user of the voice user interface, specify the character traits for creating virtual hosts with different personalities. Surace's method is different from the method of claim 10, which enables the user of the voice user interface to specify and save character traits for a virtual host in a user profile, from which a personality for the virtual host is generated.

The Examiner refers to Surace at paragraphs [0102] and [0113] to show that a user specifies personality information for a virtual assistant. While a user in Surace may select "a voice user interface with a particular personality", Surace nowhere teaches or suggests specifying the character traits that define a personality. The personalities available for a user to select in Surace at paragraphs [0102] and [0113] are the same that are specified by persons of skill in the art in Surace at paragraph [0043].

Since Surace fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of independent claim 10, Surace fails to anticipate claim 10. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) is traversed and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 11-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). The individual grounds of rejection are as follows:

- The Examiner has rejected claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Surace in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,301,339 to Staples *et al.* ("Staples").
- The Examiner has rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Surace in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,189,702 to Sakurai *et al.* ("Sakurai").
- The Examiner has rejected claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Surace in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,768,508 to Eikeland ("Eikeland").
- The Examiner has rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Surace in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,911,043 to Duffy *et al.* ("Duffy").
- The Examiner has rejected claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Surace in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,366,882 to Bijl *et al.* ("Bijl").
- The Examiner has rejected claims 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Surace in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,531,184 to Wigan *et al.* ("Wigan").

As described above, Surace does not teach or suggest all of the features of independent claim 10, as amended. Furthermore, Staples, Sakurai, Eikeland, Duffy, Bijl, and Wigan do not supply the missing teachings. At a minimum, any combination of Surace and Staples, Sakurai, Eikeland, Duffy, Bijl, or Wigan fails to teach or suggest "enabling the user to specify character traits for a virtual host; storing the character traits in a user profile having preference information for the user; and generating a virtual host with a consistent personality in accordance with the character traits," as recited in claim 10.

Since Surace, Staples, Sakurai, Eikeland, Duffy, Bijl, and Wigan do not teach or suggest all of the features of independent claim 10, either alone or in combination, the combination fails to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Dependant claims 11-18

are not rendered obvious by Surace, Staples, Sakurai, Eikeland, Duddy, Bijl, and Wigan for at least the same reasons as independent claim 10 from which they depend, and further in view of their own respective features. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of claims 11-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed and Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

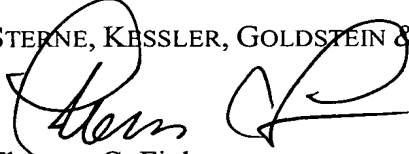
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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